

healthy development, school success, and productive contribution to society and the workforce. In addition, treatment of diseases and disorders caused by exposure raises health care costs.

This Act takes an important step towards decreasing early exposure to environmental toxins by establishing a federal grant program to fund Pregnancy Risk Information Services (PRIS) throughout the country. PRIS provide pregnant and breastfeeding women and their physicians with evidence-based information about exposure to medications, chemicals, illicit drugs, alcohol, infections, and illnesses that may pose a risk to the healthy development of a fetus or breastfeeding baby. They also fill critical knowledge gaps by recruiting women for surveillance and research projects that study the effects of toxins on babies' development. Mothers are hungry for medically-grounded advice to guide their actions while pregnant and breastfeeding. This bill would provide them with access to the information they need to make healthy, responsible choices for their children.

On behalf of ZERO TO THREE and the four million babies born each year in the United States, thank you for your steadfast work to defend children's health and development. We are pleased to support the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act and look forward to continuing to work together to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW E. MELMED, JD,  
*Executive Director.*

#### A TRIBUTE TO BRANDON SCHRAUTH

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special teacher from Waukegan, IA. His name is Brandon Schrauth and he was recently selected to receive the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This program recognizes our nation's most outstanding teachers for their contribution to the teaching and learning of math and science. For his exemplary achievement, Brandon has received both a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation as well as a signed certificate from President Obama.

President Obama named only 85 teachers across the country to be worthy of this prestigious award saying that its recipients "demonstrate uncommon skill and devotion in the classroom, nurturing the young minds of tomorrow's science and math leaders."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Brandon and his students in the United States Congress. Brandon is a true testament to Iowa's reputation of a strong work ethic and world class education. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Brandon and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

#### HONORING THE CHILDREN OF THE TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PRO- GRAM FOR SURVIVORS

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's greatest resource—our children and in particular those of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, our Gold Star children, who are the loved ones of our fallen heroes. This Memorial Day and every day, I ask all Americans to keep a special place in their hearts for these wonderful and brave children. As with each coming year, we see in each child's face the image of their parents and we are continually reminded of their heroism and selflessness and that freedom certainly does not come without a price. May these children of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our great nation always know that while their loved ones are up guarding Heaven's gates, their spirit will continue to live on inside of each of them. I ask that the poem Albert Caswell penned in their honor, *The Best Part of Them*, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

#### THE BEST PART OF THEM

My child, I know you heard the news today. . . .  
I'm going so far away. . . .  
I'm so sorry I can't be here to stay. . . .  
But, heaven for me could not wait. . . .  
But, remember you carry, Me In You in your heart each day. . . .  
My Little boys and little girls, it's for you I now so pray. . . .  
Teenagers and new born's who have so lost your best friends have they. . . .  
Your Daddy and Mommy, aren't coming home. . . . as it's up to heaven they have flown. . . .  
And you will never see them again. . . .  
As you have all just lost your best friends!  
As up towards Heaven they have flown . . . to Heaven sent. . . .  
As Angels in The Army of Our Lord, to defend. . . .  
And as you lay your precious heads down to sleep. . . .  
I pray to the Lord, the strength that he will give to you to keep. . . .  
But remember this, so very deep. . . .  
Inside of you, Is The Best Part of Me, your Mothers and Fathers hearts to so keep!  
For The Best Part of Them, Is Part of You. . . . as inside of your fine hearts, they so beat. . . .  
And I know that you will never hear them say your name again. . . .  
All in their most special ways, as you have but all but lost your best friends. . . .  
I'm so sorry that in such pain you must now so live. . . .  
And I know it's so unfair, that little soldiers you became. . . .  
My little girls and boys, as when all of the tears began. . . .  
Oh children, I know how bad that you so wish to hear that voice. . . .  
I know it's so unfair, and for you had no choice. . . .  
As you but wish for just that one last long hug. . . .  
All from your greatest Heroes, your greatest of all loves. . . .  
Take heart now my child, for they are but with our Lord high up above. . . .

The ones who all so taught you the very meaning of love. . . .  
Who in the middle of the night, when you were scared. . . . would hold you tight!  
Yea, I know it makes you cry. . . . it makes me cry too. . . .  
Whenever, I think of them. . . . and I think of you. . . .  
But, they died. . . . but, for The Greater Good. . . .  
All for what is right and what is true. . . .  
All for Freedom, they so gave That Last Full Measure all for us and you!  
Moments, are all we have upon this earth. . . .  
Just seconds, to but show our Lord God all in our worth. . . .  
And though they will not be here on Christmas or Hanukkah mourns. . . .  
With all of their smiles and hugs, so very warm.  
And they will not be able to tuck you in at night. . . .  
And watch you all grow up to be their hearts delight!  
And walk you down that aisle, with smiles so very bright. . . .  
But, remember this my child each morning as you awake. . . .  
I pray to you. . . . that this to all of your souls to so take. . . .  
That the greatest day of their short lives, was but that one when you arrived!  
And The Greatest Wish, all in their hearts. . . . that they so prayed for and so cried. . . .  
Was that you would all so grow up to have but the greatest of all lives. . . .  
So when you wake in the middle of the night, all in your tears of fright. . . .  
Missing all of your loved ones, that which you now so wish to hold onto tight. . . .  
Remember this, your Mothers. . . . your Fathers, are but Angels now in flight. . . .  
And this morning when you awoke, could you but not feel their arms around you so close. . . .  
As now they watch over you every moment, and hour. . . .  
Listen for them on the wind, for you will hear them now. . . .  
And yes they will be with you as you walk down that aisle. . . .  
And see you graduate, as up in Heaven they wear their smiles. . . .  
Take heart, because part of them is now part of you!  
For The Best Part of Them, all in your fine hearts beats inside of you. . . .  
So now you must find the same such courage, as once they had so too!  
To march on, as we watch you all grow up. . . . as we see your parents faces all in you. . . .  
So, ever remember this my child. . . .  
The Best Part of Them, is now part of you. . . .  
As their fine hearts so beat so all inside of you so true!  
So now you know what you must do!  
Lift up your heads, and make all of their wishes so come true!  
Find The Strength, all with what their fine hearts so meant that which beat so all inside of you!  
And one day up in Heaven, you'll will once again all be together so too!  
Because, The Best Part of Them. . . . Is what is inside of You!  
Amen. . . .

# OPPOSING POLITICAL KILLINGS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the current campaign of extra-judicial killing being waged by the government of Rwanda. Political assassination has no role to play in the twenty first century. It must be condemned and it must cease. The government of Rwanda should understand that the large amounts of aid that Rwanda receives through America's generosity can not and will not be given to a state that kills its own citizens overseas and at home for political ends.

The government of Rwanda is conducting a campaign of terror and murder against those it sees as enemies. On May 19, 2011 the New York Times reported that Rwandan dissidents in London had been warned by Scotland Yard that the Rwandan government "was plotting to kill them." The BBC reported on May 21st that British police had told the men that "The Rwandan government poses an immediate threat to your life."

These are not just empty threats. The British police prevented a Rwandan assassin from entering the UK. In June 2010, former Rwandan Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, survived a botched assassination attempt in South Africa. Later that same month, Rwandan journalist, Jean-Leonard Rugabage, working on a story on the attack on Mr. Nyamwasa, was himself shot dead in Kigali.

The Government of Rwanda is using every means at its disposal to harass those it sees as enemies but whom are merely exercising their democratic rights. In January 2011, four former top officials—including Gen Nyamwasa—who have fallen out with President Kagame and gone into exile were sentenced in absentia to long terms in prison for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions. My own constituent, American citizen and distinguished human rights lawyer and campaigner, Paul Erlinder, was detained on bogus charges for several weeks in Kigali.

Rwanda's recent history has been tragic, but a stable and prosperous country has been born from the ashes of the 1994 genocide. However, this tragic history does not give the current government the right to commit murder. The United States currently gives Rwanda over \$200 million per year in aid. This generosity must surely be reexamined if the government continues to attack and kill those it disagrees with.

[From the BBC News, Africa]

**RWANDAN EXILES IN LONDON "THREATENED BY HITMAN"**

TWO RWANDAN EXILES LIVING IN LONDON WERE WARNED LAST WEEK BY UK POLICE THAT THEY FACED THE THREAT OF ASSASSINATION.

It has emerged that the men were visited by officers who told them they were in danger of being killed by a hitman sent by the Rwandan government.

Shortly before the warning was issued, a Rwandan man suspected of involvement was prevented from entering the UK.

The Rwandan High Commission in London has denied involvement in any alleged plot to kill the two exiles.

"The government of Rwanda does not threaten the lives of its citizens wherever they live," High Commissioner Ernest Rwamucyo said.

The government later said that the Metropolitan police had not approached it with evidence of the allegations.

"We are ready as always to work with them to ensure that nobody, be they Rwandan or not, is the victim of violence on British soil," a statement said, quoted by the New Times website in Kigali.

"SCARED"

The two men—Rene Mugenzi and Jonathan Musonera—have both been involved in political groups opposed to the ruling party of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

A week ago, UK police officers knocked on their doors and told them that they could not guarantee their safety. They advised them to increase the security around their homes or move away.

The police gave them written statements saying: "The Rwandan government poses an immediate threat to your life. The threat could come in any form."

It is understood that shortly before visiting the two men, counter-terrorism officers had stopped a Rwandan man as he tried to enter the country at Folkestone.

They questioned the unidentified man and turned him away.

Mr. Musonera said he and his family were very scared.

"I was not surprised, because this is not the first time they've tried to disturb the opposition," he told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme after learning about the death threat.

"I take this problem very seriously. I used to drive my car. Right now I stopped because the police told me to use limited movement or go out with friends.

"My wife, she is scared. We have cut off the home phone. The children now they stay at home, they can't go out. They can't go out with friends. I stopped visitors coming to our home."

## OPPOSITION MEETING

BBC Africa analyst Martin Plaut says it is not the first time there have been reports of threats to Rwandan exiles living in the UK.

The UK's Security Service (MI5) has apparently been attempting to prevent an assassination campaign for some time, he adds.

In April, it was reported that MI5 had warned Mr Rwamucyo to halt an alleged campaign of harassment against critics of his country's government.

The police's warning was issued just prior to a meeting in London of exiles last weekend that brought together Tutsi and Hutu opposition politicians.

The meeting heard from a former Rwandan chief of staff, Lt Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who addressed the gathering by videolink from South Africa, where he survived an assassination attempt in June 2010.

The Rwanda government has denied any links to the shooting of Gen Nyamwasa, who was a close ally of Mr Kagame before fleeing to South Africa last year.

The party representing the imprisoned Hutu politician, Victoire Ingabire, was also at the meeting.

The possibility that Hutu and Tutsi political parties could begin working together would be worrying for the Rwandan government, our correspondent says.

In January, four former top officials—including Gen Nyamwasa—who have fallen out with Mr Kagame and gone into exile were sentenced in absentia to long terms in prison for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions.

President Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front came to power in 1994, ending the

genocide in which some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

He was re-elected last year with 93% of the vote, amid opposition claims of harassment.

[From the New York Times, May 19, 2011]

**BRITISH POLICE WARN RWANDAN DISSIDENTS OF THREAT**

(By Josh Kron and Jeffrey Gettleman)

KAMPALA, UGANDA.—The British police have warned two outspoken Rwandan dissidents living in London that their lives are in danger because the Rwandan government may be plotting to kill them, according to British officials and documents.

In hand-delivered letters dated May 12, the Metropolitan Police Service warned the dissidents that the threat on their lives "could come in any form" and that "unconventional means" had been used before.

"Reliable intelligence states that the Rwandan government poses an imminent threat to your life," the warning letters read. They added, "Although the Metropolitan Police Service will take what steps it can to minimize the risk, the police cannot protect you from this threat on a day-by-day, hour-by-hour basis."

British officials confirmed the documents' authenticity on Thursday.

Human rights groups have increasingly criticized the Rwandan government as being repressive and intolerant of any dissent, and several Rwandan dissidents living abroad have been mysteriously killed.

Last year, a former Rwandan general who had broken with the government was shot in South Africa, and assailants later tried to kill him while he was recovering in the hospital. Western diplomats contended that was evidence of a government plot to kill him.

The Rwandan government has rejected such accusations, including any threats in London.

"The government of Rwanda does not threaten the lives of its citizens wherever they live," it said in a statement. "The Metropolitan Police have not approached us with evidence of allegations, but we are ready, as always, to work with them to ensure that nobody, be they Rwandan or not, is the victim of violence on British soil."

The form letters, signed by a member of the Metropolitan Police Service, did not vouch for the accuracy of the threat but said it came from a source whose account the police had "no reason to disbelieve."

One of the recipients of the warning, Rene Claudel Mugenzi, has been actively working with Rwandan opposition groups in London and said he was contacted by the British police late on May 12. "They said it was important," Mr. Mugenzi said, "that I should not leave home."

Mr. Mugenzi, 35, said he was aware that the Rwandan government did not appreciate his political views. But when two police officers showed up at his door in east London around 10:30 p.m. and told him and his wife of a threat to his life, he said he was speechless.

"I did not think they could think to kill me here in the U.K.," he said.

Mr. Mugenzi says that in March he asked a pointed question to Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame, during a BBC call-in show about whether Mr. Kagame believed an Egypt-style revolution could happen in Rwanda.

He also helped organize a recent meeting of exiled Rwandans in London. The Rwandan government has accused many opposition officials of working with a rebel group in eastern Congo that has been classified as a terrorist group by the United States and linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Mr. Mugenzi, who says he holds British as well as Rwandan citizenship, also works as a director at the London Center for Social Impact. He ran with the Liberal Democrats in local London elections last year and lost.